

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106
TELEPHONE 421-7346

For release: October 30, 1972

JAPANESE CERAMICS AT
CLEVELAND ART MUSEUM

A special exhibition of contemporary Japanese ceramics has been made available to The Cleveland Museum of Art and will be seen here from October 31 until November 26. The exhibition is sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is being circulated by the International Exhibitions Foundation, Washington, D.C..

The exhibition includes approximately seventy five examples of the production of living Japanese potters, several of whom are classified by their government as "ningen kokuhō" (human national treasures).

Three general creative directions may be discerned in the exhibition. The first of these attempts to recover the styles and production techniques of the various classical Asian wares. It moreover seeks to create ceramics for daily use which are contemporary in character although derived from classic forms and techniques.

A second trend may be seen among the artists who have abandoned the concept of practical usage and who are working with free sculptural forms.

Japanese folk traditions provide the stimulus for the third general grouping to be seen in the exhibition. These potters attempt to recall the styles and techniques of hand-made folk pottery such as those wares which have been used in ordinary Japanese households from generation to generation. An attempt is also seen to achieve a limited kind of mass production, since ceramics in this category are meant for everyday use and are sold at modest prices.

